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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production & Marketing Administration
511-513 U. S. Court House
Phone 2-1365

Fort Worth 2, Texas
December 5, 1945

USDA FOOD BULLETIN

There is feasting for the eyes as well as food for the inner man in the arrays of fresh fruits and vegetables on the December markets of Texas cities. There is food for thought in the fact that many of these commodities were once regarded as luxuries for special occasions, but they are now classed as necessities and are still available as winter tightens its grip on the nation.

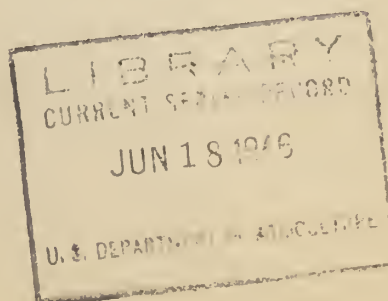
However, in spite of all the progress made by the industry, the element of risk has not been eliminated. Recent reports of frost damage in Florida and Texas emphasize the hazards involved in the production of sensitive vegetable crops during the colder part of the year. Such plants as squash, eggplants, cucumbers, peppers, beans, and tomatoes are especially susceptible to frost injury.

With the appearance of carloads of Christmas trees from Montana, and the holiday spirit in evidence, it is apparent that certain products will be featured by your grocery stores and retail markets. Among the fruits which will be available for the Christmas market are pears, grapes, avacados, oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, dates, and possibly coconuts. The short crop of apples makes the product so scarce that buyers can not always be assured of getting preferred varieties and sizes. The season for Texas navels is coming to a close and current receipts of navel oranges are originating in Arizona and California. Banana receipts are erratic. Tomato supplies have been light but arrivals from Mexico are supplementing fall crop receipts from Texas and California. The lettuce movement from Arizona and California has been curtailed by shortage of refrigerator cars. Cranberries will not be as plentiful as they were around Thanksgiving. Although a large crop was grown, only part of it was harvested.

On the whole a good assortment of fruits and vegetables is expected but purchases for Christmas and New Years should be made early. If there should be double holidays or too much of a last minute rush, late orders might be hard to fill.

Irish potatoes deserve consumer attention. Offerings include a wide range of prices which vary according to variety, grade, and size. There is considerable freedom of choice on the part of purchases. California Burbanks are the highest in price, Idaho Russets are second, Colorado McClures rank third. However there are three grades of Idaho Russets which are priced according to grade. Texas new potatoes are also available.

Furnished by Ralph G. Risser, Federal Food Reporter



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production & Marketing Administration

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Fort Worth 2, Texas
Dec. 13, 1945

USDA FOOD BULLETIN

Colder weather in vegetable producing areas of Texas and Florida is affecting the supplies and replacement prices for tender vegetables. Cucumbers and fresh squash must now be drawn chiefly from Florida at considerably higher costs. However, many of the popular vegetables and fruits are fairly plentiful with no decided change in prices. Texas cauliflower and sweet potatoes have been moving well. There is considerable range in quality and prices for tomatoes which include receipts from South Texas, and a few from California and Mexico.

Along with the pre-holiday atmosphere and the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping, fruits and nuts are being featured for the holiday trade. For a big peacetime Christmas there is an attractive assortment of colorful offerings. There are oranges for the Christmas fruit baskets, fruit bowls, and Christmas stockings. They include Navels from California and Arizona and Hamlins and a few Temples from Texas. Tangerines from Texas and Florida are also fine Christmas fruits. Apples are available in various sizes and colors but are getting scarcer. There are a few pineapples and bananas. There are almonds, English walnuts, peanuts, and pecans. New arrivals include coconuts from Honduras, Cranberries are not plentiful.

Other fruits offered locally are D'Anjou pears, Emperor grapes, avocados, fresh dates, grapefruit, limes, and lemons.

For price conscious shoppers the Texas marshseedless grapefruit continues to be the best value in fruits.

Citrus fruits are popular in the small consumer size open mesh sacks.

Fruits and vegetables are now coming from the South, North, East, and West. From near the Canadian border, we are receiving rutabagas, from Florida tangerines, cucumbers, and squash. From South Texas we are getting grapefruit, oranges, tangerines, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, green onions, and tomatoes. From California celery, dates, oranges, lettuce, lemons, and grapes. From Washington, apples, and pears. From Idaho and Colorado potatoes and onions.

Current best buys include grapefruit, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, beets, and sweet potatoes.

Furnished by Ralph G. Risser, Federal Food Reporter

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production & Marketing Administration

511-513 U. S. Court House
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Fort Worth 2, Texas
December 20, 1945

USDA FOOD BULLETIN

Time is running out for Christmas shopping, but the old year is not yet gone and there is still some time for last hour purchases for the Christmas dinner.

Altho your Christmas basket does not bring you a full assortment of fruit and your Christmas stocking does not contain an orange or a tangerine, remember that the holiday season is a great time for fruits. Perhaps the water fowl which you have for dinner will be stuffed with fruit dressing. The dinner may very properly start with Texas grapefruit and be finished with plum pudding, fruit cake, or fruit pie topped off with nuts and raisins on a fresh fruit bowl. Besides the usual citrus fruits, recent additions to the list include Temple oranges and tangelos. Emperor grapes from California, D'Anjou and Bosc pears from the Pacific Northwest, dates from California, and pineapples from the tropics may grace your table.

In spite of recent low temperatures in Southern producing sections, the hardier vegetables are still available in ample variety. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, onions, potatoes, and sweet potatoes are on hand for sale. Many of these products are especially appropriate for mid-winter holidays.

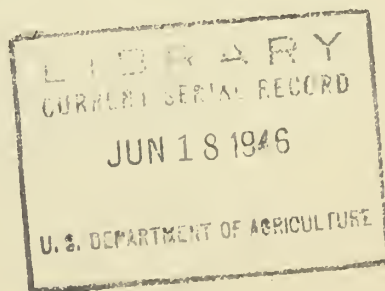
A number of commodities are being shipped in from other states, but the Lower Rio Grade Valley and other South Texas points are supplying a goodly portion. The accessibility of these Texas products is a point in their favor. The lower cost of fresh fruits and vegetable as compared with the processed articles should not be overlooked. Such foods can not be processed without additional expense to the finished product.

Home stocks of Irish potatoes may be getting low in some instances and replacement should be considered. The small open mesh consumer packages may be convenient for hand to mouth buying but the standard container is the 100-pound bag. Crop estimates released this week show that the national potato crop is well above the average seasons' production, but estimates have been reduced in November and again in December. A part of the output is being shipped to Europe to relieve the hunger there.

Current best buys are grapefruit, carrots, cabbage, beets, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and cauliflower.

Furnished by Ralph G. Risser, Federal Food Reporter

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all



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Fort Worth 2, Texas
December 27, 1945

USDA FOOD BULLETIN

Christmas has passed and we have had our fill of Christmas goodies, but eating must go on and on. Even though the remaining year is getting shorter and shorter and the days are getting longer, the market basket must be filled, and appetites satisfied with little change in daily food requirements.

While attention has been concentrated on holiday shopping, certain good old standbys may have been overlooked and omitted from the shopping list. Products like potatoes may have been the forgotten purchase, so that many cupboards are getting bare and will have to be restocked with this nutritious and plentiful cold weather food. Although car shortages have curtailed recent potato shipments, somewhat, dealers are generally provided with the popular varieties from Idaho, Colorado, and California with which housewives may replenish their supplies.

A good new year's resolution for consumers and buyers might be: "I will purchase freely when offerings are ample, prices are moderate, and quality of product is good." It is smart to do so. Good crops frequently bring about these favorable conditions for buying. Shrewd shoppers take advantage of them.

If Christmas has depleted your pocket book you will be especially interested this week in the list of current best buys in fruits and vegetables. These are: grapefruit, carrots, cabbage, Irish potatoes, beets, turnips, spinach, sweet potatoes, onions, and oranges.

Mid week post Christmas supplies of green vegetables were none too abundant and the more tender vegetables were scarce. Old stocks of cauliflower and Goldenheart celery had been pretty well cleaned up by the Christmas demand. Cranberries had practically disappeared for this season.

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